AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for separating and recovering a catalytic component-supporting wash coat from a metallic carrier catalytic device, ~~which method is characterized in that~~ comprising treating a metallic carrier catalytic device ~~which is composed of~~ comprising a metallic carrier having a wash coat provided thereon and a noble metal-containing catalytic component which is supported on the wash coat ~~is treated~~ with an aqueous solution of a mixed acid ~~which contains~~ containing sulfuric acid at a concentration in the range of 10 to 30 % by weight and nitric acid at a concentration in the range of 1 to 3 % by weight, at a temperature in the range of from about 60°C to about 100°C.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for recovering noble metals from a metallic carrier catalytic device, comprising separating and recovering a catalytic component-supporting wash coat from a metallic carrier catalytic device according to claim 1, and

separating the noble metals from the aqueous solution of mixed acid which has been used to treat the metallic carrier catalytic device~~wherein noble metals are recovered by any known method from catalytic component-supporting wash coat which has been separated and recovered by a method as mentioned in claim 1, and from the aqueous solution of mixed acid which has been used to treat the metallic carrier catalytic device~~.

7-10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) A method for separating and recovering a catalytic component-supporting wash coat from a metallic carrier catalytic device, comprising treating a metallic carrier catalytic device comprising a metallic carrier having a wash coat provided thereon and a noble metal-containing catalytic component which is supported on the wash coat with an aqueous solution of a mixed acid containing sulfuric acid at a concentration in the range of 10 to 30 % by weight and nitric acid at a concentration in the range of 1 to 3 % by weight, at a temperature in the range of from about 60°C to about 100°C, and

separating and recovering the catalytic component-supporting wash coat.

12. (New) A method for recovering noble metals from a metallic carrier catalytic device, comprising separating and recovering a catalytic component-supporting wash coat from a metallic carrier catalytic device according to claim 11, and

separating the noble metals from the aqueous solution of mixed acid which has been used to treat the metallic carrier catalytic device.